

Eastern Shore and the Armorer in Frederick county are altogether unnecessary officers, the clerks and sheriffs of the Eastern Shore being always able to make their returns to the Treasurer of the Western Shore, with as much facility, and as little inconvenience, as they are now made by the Treasurer of the Eastern Shore, and the Armorer in Frederick having nothing to do, there can be no use in retaining him. The committee cannot help thinking that the amount of five thousand dollars paid to the Geological and to the Topographical Engineers of the State, greatly exceed the value of their services rendered, and they therefore suggest to the House the propriety of reducing their salaries, if indeed it shall be considered necessary to retain those officers.

In looking over the items that make the aggregate of our State expenses, the committee have been struck with the enormous amount paid to the Judiciary, which receives out of the Treasury nearly thirty-nine thousand dollars annually, besides fees or perquisites, which carry the total expense to perhaps forty-five thousand dollars, this amount large and extravagant as it appears in itself, is rendered doubly so, by a contrast with the expenses of this department, in other States, Pennsylvania with four times the population of Maryland, and five times her territory pays her Judiciary about one third as much as is paid by Maryland, Ohio, with her immense territory and population pays less than half as much, and New York with a population of two millions and a half, pays a little more than half of what is paid by Maryland, with a population of five hundred thousand. These facts seem to call loudly for the pruning knife of retrenchments, and the committee think that the time has come when we should closely investigate this branch of the Government, and relieve the people from the unreasonable and oppressive burdens under which they are now labouring. A new arrangement of the Judicial districts should be made, by which the labours might be more equally distributed, and the number of Judges *ought to be reduced*. By these means a great reduction in the current expenses of the State might be made as the committee conceive, without injuriously affecting any of its interests, for they have yet to learn that justice is not as perfectly and as speedily administered in either of the States to which reference has been made, as in our own; there is another class of officers, whose salaries, though not fixed by law, yet the committee think are legitimate objects of enquiry, and where